

REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2, 5, 6, and 12-18 have been amended. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 2-18 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,653,958 to Morche. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been canceled. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 2-6 and 12-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. (Official Action, page 3.) Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion in order to obtain allowance of the claims. Therefore, applicants submit that Claims 2-6 and 12-18 should be patentable over the cited reference.

III. Allowable Claims

As noted above, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 2-6 and 12-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. (Official Action, page 3.) Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion in order to obtain allowance of the claims.

Presently pending Claim 2 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 2 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 2 should now be formally allowed.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from amended Claim 2. Therefore, Claims 3 and 4 include the features of Claim 2. Accordingly, Claims 3 and 4 should now be formally allowed for the same reasons provided above for Claim 2.

Presently pending Claim 5 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 5 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 5 should now be formally allowed.

Presently pending Claim 6 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 6 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 should now be formally allowed.

Presently pending Claim 12 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 12 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 12 should now be formally allowed.

Presently pending Claim 13 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 13 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 13 should now be formally allowed.

Presently pending Claim 14 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 14 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 14 should now be formally allowed.

Presently pending Claim 15 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 15 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 should now be formally allowed.

Presently pending Claim 16 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 16 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 should now be formally allowed.

Presently pending Claim 17 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 17 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 17 should now be formally allowed.

Presently pending Claim 18 depends from base Claim 1. Claim 18 has been amended to independent form and to include the features of original base Claim 1.

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Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 18 should now be formally allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

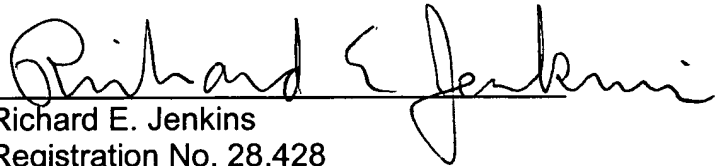
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON & TAYLOR, P.A.

Date: September 20, 2004

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REJ/BJO/gwc

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